CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of controlling access to a gate (CG) comprising the steps of:

generating a carrier signal (16) using an emitter (12); said emitter (12) being mounted in a cigarette lighter receptacle (28) which is installed in a vehicle (V);

encoding said carrier signal (16) using a stored, predetermined transmission code (20) embedded within said carrier signal (16);

transmitting said carrier signal (16) to a gate receiver (14G); said gate receiver being coupled to a gate (CG); said gate (CG) being opened when said carrier signal (16) is receiver by said gate receiver (14G).

2. The method as claimed in Claim 1, comprising the additional step of:

monitoring traffic passing through said gate (CG) using a computer coupled to said gate (CG).

3. The method as claimed in Claim 2, comprising the additional step of:

controlling said computer through a telephone system.

4. The method as claimed in Claim 2, comprising the additional step of:

storing a plurality of special visitor codes in said computer to permit temporary access through said gate (CG).

5. The method as claimed in Claim 2, comprising the additional step of:

integrating a voice recognition system to permit access to said gate (CG) based on a vocal input.

6. The method as claimed in Claim 2, comprising the additional step of:

programming said computer to accept a special authorized code for service personnel and to report their arrival.

7. The method as claimed in Claim 2, comprising the additional step of:

recording images of traffic passing through said gate (CG) using a video system integrated with said computer.

8. The method as claimed in Claim 1, comprising the additional step of:

operating an external device (ED) by transmitting said carrier signal from said emitter (12).

9. The method as claimed in Claim 8, in which said external device is a garage door opener (GDO).

10. The method as claimed in Claim 8, in which said external device is a security gate (SG).

11. The method as claimed in Claim 8, in which said external device is a security alarm (SA).

12. The method as claimed in Claim 8, in which said external device is an exterior light (EL).

13. The method as claimed in Claim 8, in which said external device is an interior light (IL).

14. An apparatus for use in a power receptacle (28) of a vehicle (V) comprising:

a housing (34) adapted to fit into said power receptacle (28) of said vehicle (V);

a miniaturized, compact-volume transmitter board (114) constructed to fit inside said housing (34);

said transmitter board (114) including a transceiver microprocessor (162) which stores a transmitter code (20) for generating a coded serial pulse train (16);

said housing (34) including a power wire (PW) and a ground wire (GW) which are each connected to said board (114) and which are spring-loaded into said housing (34); and

an antenna (166) coupled to said transmitter board (114) for directing said coded serial pulse train (16) to a remote receiver (14).

15. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 14, in which said remote receiver (14) is coupled to a garage door opener (GDO) which is activated when said remote receiver (14) receives said coded serial pulse train (16).

16. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 14, in which said remote receiver (14) is coupled to an external device (ED) which is activated when said remote receiver (14) receives said coded serial pulse train (16).

17. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, in which said external device (ED) is a security alarm (SA).

18. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, in which said external device (ED) is a security gate (SG).

19. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, in which said external device (ED) is an exterior light (EL).

20. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 16, in which said external device (ED) is an interior light (IL).